

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
EB-08 AID-05 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 AGR-01  
OIC-02 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7406

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS VIENNA 06912

UNIDO

FOR IO/DHP AND AID/IIA

ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCON, EPAP, UNIDO

SUBJECT: FIRST SESSION OF UNIDO'S LEATHER AND LEATHER

- PRODUCTS INDUSTRY PANEL

1. MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED A COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY PANEL WHICH WAS HELD IN VIENNA, 5-7 JUNE. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PANEL WAS APPROVED IN MAY AT THE TWELFTH SESSION OF UNIDO'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY HELD IN INNSBRUCK LAST NOVEMBER. PARTICIPANTS AT THE PANEL INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR FROM SOME THIRTEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND OBSERVERS FROM FAO, ILO, ITC AND UNCTAD. THE CHAIRMAN WAS U.S. CIT EUGENE L. KILIK, PRESIDENT OF THE TANNERS' COUNCIL OF AMERICA.

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2. THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT HAD ORGANIZED THE WORK OF THE PANEL IN THREE MAIN AREAS: FIRST, "MEASURES TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND DISSEMINATION OF LATEST INFORMATION" IN THE INDUSTRY; SECOND, "STATUS OF FOLLOWUP AT THE REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST CONSULTATION MEETING", AND THIRD, CONSIDERATION OF A SECOND

CONSULTATION MEETING.

3. THE PANEL APPROACHED ITS WORK IN A REALISTIC MANNER, GIVEN THE LIMITED RESOURCES OF UNIDO. IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES, IT RECOMMENDED THE USE OF ALREADY EXISTING INSTITUTIONS WHERE POSSIBLE -- IN THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL DATA, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CENTERS -- AND A CONCENTRATION ON THE GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE STATUS AND NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY, RATHER THAN THE DIRECT PROVIDING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE MAIN POINTS BROUGHT OUT AT THE FIRST CONSULTATION MEETING HAD BEEN THAT THE INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF QUALITY HIDES WOULD BE A MAJOR CONSTRAINT ON THE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE PANEL RECOMMENDED THAT UNIDO, IN COOPERATION WITH FAO, SHOULD PREPARE A CAMPAIGN TO "IMPRESS UPON GOVERNMENTS THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING HIDES AND SKINS PROJECTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANS". ADDITIONALLY, THE PANEL AGREED THAT UNIDO SHOULD PREPARE A "BRIEF COMPENDIUM" ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND A "DIRECTORY OF POTENTIAL PARTNERS" FOR JOINT VENTURES OR OTHER COOPERATION AGREEMENTS.

4. STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FAO, ILO, ITC AND UNCTAD. IN PARTICULAR, THE FAO STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF THE STATISTICAL DATA DESIRED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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UNIDO WAS AVAILABLE FROM FAO-PREPARED REPORTS.

5. CHAIRMAN KILIK COMMENTED PRIVATELY TO PERMREP IMMEDIATELY AFTER SESSION THAT WHILE IT WAS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE SECRETARIAT'S ENTHUSIASM IN CHECK, HE THOUGHT THE PANEL HAD BEEN ABLE TO CHANNEL THIS ENTHUSIASM INTO PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC PATHS. THE PANEL HAD AGREED THAT THE SECOND CONSULTATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN MID-1980, BUT IT STIPULATED THAT, AT ITS SECOND SESSION (NOW SCHEDULED FOR 5-7 FEBRUARY 1979), IT WOULD SELECT, FROM A SECRETARIAT-PROPOSED LIST OF 9 TOPICS, THOSE TWO OR THREE TOPICS IT CONSIDERED TO BE MOST SUITABLE. ADDITIONALLY, IT REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A CHART WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY THE VARIOUS ACTIONS REQUESTED BY THE FIRST CONSULTATION MEETING AND THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING EACH (THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE DECISION BY IDB-XII THAT SECOND CONSULTATION MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD WHEN THE BOARD OR THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE HAS DETERMINED THAT "THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THESE MEETINGS RECOMMENDED BY THE FIRST CONSULTATION MEETINGS HAS BEEN COMPLETED").

6. MISSION IS POUCHING A COPY OF THE REPORT ON THE FIRST

SESSION OF THE PANEL AND A COPY OF A COVERING LETTER FROM  
SECRETARIAT (HACINI) TO CHAIRMAN KILIK TO IO/DHP-STEINER.  
LEARY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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